

MY WATER TASTES METALLIC

POSSIBLE PROBLEM	HEALTH CONCERN?	OTHER CLUES & CONSIDERATIONS	CONFIRM IT	POSSIBLE FIXES	LICENSE REQUIRED FOR FIX?	STATE FUNDS?	MORE INFO
<p>Naturally-occurring Arsenic (with other metals) See Arsenic in Drinking Water. Arsenic itself does not cause a metallic taste in water, although it is often associated with other metals that do.</p> <p>Lead also does not cause a metallic taste, but can be associated with copper, which does. See Lead in Drinking Water brochure.</p>	<p>Yes, arsenic is a known carcinogen even at fairly low levels and also causes other health problems such as diabetes. Some metals can be a problem if levels are over the drinking water standards. See the Department of Health Fact Sheets for arsenic and lead</p>	<p>Increasing iron levels in your well water can be a clue that you have an arsenic problem. Is your well located in Brown, Florence, Outagamie or Winnebago county? (Although arsenic has been found in all areas of the state.) Are there any manufacturing facilities nearby? Is your water naturally soft? Is there blue or brown staining of water fixtures?</p>	<p>Test your water for metals, including arsenic, pH and alkalinity. Contact a laboratory certified by DNR to perform metal analyses.</p>	<p>Installation of Dept. of Commerce approved water treatment device.</p>	<p>Yes, treatment devices must be installed by licensed plumbers; or in some cases may be installed by the owner/occupant of a single family private residence. See plumbing license laws.</p>	<p>Yes, for arsenic if drinking water standards are exceeded: eligibility criteria are met; and approved first. See well replacement program. No, for metals that are naturally-occurring; that enter the water due to corrosion of well casing or piping; or for metals that are not a health concern.</p>	<p>DNR Arsenic web page</p> <p>USEPA</p>
				<p>Construct a new well.</p>	<p>Yes, licensed Well Drillers.</p>	<p>Yes, for arsenic if drinking water standards are exceeded: eligibility criteria are met; and approved first. See well replacement program. No, for other metals that are naturally-occurring; that enter the water due to corrosion of well casing or piping; or for metals that are not a health concern.</p>	

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Iron See Iron in Drinking Water brochure.	No, iron is a necessary mineral for human health. There is a nuisance standard for iron that is based on Staining, appearance, taste and odor problems. See the Department of Health Fact Sheets for iron and manganese.	Is there staining of laundry, tubs or sinks? There are two types of iron in water: clear water or soluble iron; or red water or insoluble iron. Treatment methods depend on which type of iron is present and at what level. See Iron in Drinking Water brochure. Iron Bacteria can be associated with iron problems. If iron is present, often manganese is, too.	Test your water for arsenic, iron, manganese, iron bacteria, pH (field test), alkalinity and hardness. Contact a laboratory certified by DNR to perform arsenic, iron and manganese analyses .	Install Dept. of Commerce approved water treatment device. Devices are listed under contaminants they will remove. See Iron in Drinking Water brochure for treatment options. Be sure the chosen treatment device is capable of removing the amount and type of iron you have in your water. Also make sure it is capable of removing any manganese present.	Yes, treatment devices must be installed by licensed plumbers; or in some cases may be installed by the owner/occupant of a single family private residence. See plumbing license laws .	No	University of Wisconsin Extension National Ground Water Association Water Systems Council National Sanitation Foundation Water softeners will remove iron in some cases.
				Change the screen depth or well casing depth in your well (while maintaining the minimum casing depth required by code).	Yes, licensed Well Drillers		See above. Talk to your neighbors about their wells to find out if you can reduce iron by changing your screen or casing depth.